

Tamil Nadu at Cuddalore, Perundurai, Palladam, Komarapalayam and Erode.

(c) After taking into consideration the suggestions of various stakeholders, appropriate action *inter alia* including duty rationalization, augmenting availability of raw material, infrastructure development, human resources development etc., is taken for increasing the competitiveness of the domestic textile industry including those in Tamil Nadu.

Establishment of Yarn Depots

1633. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to establish 'Yarn Depots' for supply of yarn to handloom weavers in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of yarn depots that were proposed to be set up, State-wise, under the scheme during 2006-07; and

(d) what is the current status with regard to setting up of 'Yarn Depots' as on 31st October, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (d) In order to facilitate regular supply of yarn to the weavers in handloom sector, as on 31st October, 2006, 273 new Yarn Depots have been established throughout the country in 2006-07 against the sanctioned target of 230 new yarn depots, in addition to the existing 110 yarn depots. State-wise list of 273 New Yarn Depots as well as existing 110 yarn depot given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 209 Annexure No. 1]

Courses in Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology

1634. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology in the country:

(b) the details of courses conducted in each Institute; and

(c) whether Government would consider conducting graduate level courses like B.Tech. to widen the job opportunities of passing out students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) At present, 4 Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology (IIHTs) at Varanasi, Salem, Guwahati and Jodhpur are functioning in the Central sector and 2 Institutes namely, Shri Pragada Kotaiah Memorial Indian Institute of Handloom Technology at Venkatagiri and Karnataka Handloom Technology Institute at Gadag are functioning in the State sector with an objective to provide technically qualified manpower, primarily to meet the requirement of the Handloom Sector. These IIHTs are conducting 3 years' Diploma Course in Handloom Technology. Besides, IIHT, Salem and Varanasi are also conducting 1½ years Post Diploma Course in Textile Chemistry.

(c) No, Sir.

Revival of weavers' co-operatives in Orissa

1635. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Orissa proposes to revive weavers' cooperatives in the State;

(b) whether the Centre proposes to provide financial and physical help for execution of the project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is the action plan of the Centre to provide for national and international Designers, to give training to their traditional weavers to make their products attractive and competitive in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The Government of Orissa has informed they are operating special OTS programme involving 226 Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies (PWCS) in the State. By this scheme, the interest burden of PWCS for the period from 01.04.1998 to 31.03.2005 is to be waived by concerned Co-operative Banks and Orissa State Co-operative